

Floor Statement of Rep. Jared Huffman
Safe Climate Caucus
April 25, 2013

Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Across this country, we are seeing the ruinous effects of climate change, from more powerful storms in the east to persistent drought and catastrophic wildfires in the west.

We are not powerless in the face of this threat. We know what we have to do: slow our emissions of greenhouse gases, deploy clean energy solutions.

But we also must do another thing: we must manage our forestlands to be a part of the solution instead of part of the problem. Healthy forests can actually help remove carbon dioxide from the environment, from the atmosphere.

We sometimes hear about technologies that in the future may be able to this, may be able to capture and store carbon dioxide. But we have natural infrastructure that can do it right now, and a great example of that is from my own district in California, the Pacific Forest Trust. They've been working for over twenty years with landowners as well as local, state, and federal officials to conserve and manage forests to capture carbon. Their work with forest conservation easements is paying off for wildlife, for landowners, and also for our climate. Their Van Eck forest in Humboldt County was the first forest emissions reduction project registered under California's climate change law.

I yield back.